

To the Supreme Authority of *England*, the Commons Assembled in *Parliament*.

The Humble Addresse of Thomas Devenish.

Shewing,

THAT after the setting of this Parliament; troubles arising in this Nation in most places; and he living at that time in the County of *Dorset*, near the house of a great Recusant, was in great danger of his life, by that family, and those ill affected, who frequently resorted to the said house (they knowing him well to be faithfull to the Parliament) which being by a great providence discovered to your suppliant, he was necessitated for the preservation of his life, to fly to *London* for refuge, and having lived there but a short time, some of this Honourable House, who knew your suppliant and his condition, proffered him *Winchester* house to keepe the Parliaments Prisoners in, as an imployment that might be and was thought beneficiall, and thereupon got an Ordinance of Parliament dated 14. Novem. 1642. to that purpose; which when one M. *Nicholas Young* heard of, he appeared and laid claim to the said house, as having in law an unquestionable title for his life, to the profits and benefits of the said house, by Patent from the Bishop, confirmed by the Dean and Chapter of *Winchester*, whereupon the Committee for prisoners, sent for the said *Young*, to produce his title, and upon their perusal of his Evidence they judged his title good in Law, and thought it reasonable, if he would consent that the House should be employed as a Prison for the Parliaments use: That the said M. *Young* should have 52 l. per annum for the use thereof, besides his sallary and all other benefits of allowance of diet, Liveries &c. mentioned in his letters Patent, he should keep to himself; which Agreement being made with the said M. *Young*, the said Committee prevailed with the Parliament to passe another Ordinance dated 3. Decem. 1642. to that purpose; so that your Suppliant, who was to have had the house freely by the former Ordinance, was now to pay out of his own purse 52 l. per annum for the same, to keep the Parliaments prisoners in

notwithstanding he never had a penny sallary for all his pains and expences, but was to expect to have it by way of fees from such prisoners as should be sent to the said house, which proved little worth; for this Honourable House then sent few of any ability to that place, but disposed most commonly of such prisoners to Sir John Lentball and M. Warcop &c. and did fill up Winchester house with poor Soldiers, in all neer a thousand, which made the house altogether unprofitable, noysome, and brought the plague into it, in which miserable condition, your suppliants wife, & divers other of his family were swept away by death, and his friends stood afar off from him, & durst not come nigh him, to comfort or hel phim: But besides all this there was yet more that added abundantly to his misery and sorrow, which was that this Honourable House having appointed so many hundreds of the Neeby poor prisoners, to his custody, voted them allowance for their maintenance, so that the proportion did not exceed six pence *per diem* for a man; & the Committee for prisoners, by vertue of that Order, appointing him to allow them threepence a day a man; faithfully promising weekly to pay him, that which so hee should lay out for them, accordingly your suppliant did honestly and constantly allow them the said allowance, expecting his money weekly according to faith and promise, neither of which hath been kept with him; he being at this day out of purse three hundred and odde pounds for such poor Soldiers, as had threepence *per diem*, besides poor Officers which had also allowance, besides all which, he further provided them straw, and meat, &c. for the sick, and buried their dead at his own charge. Moreover he hath laid out a 100 l. in repairing the house, which reparations are appointed by the forementioned Ordinance to be allowed out of the Bishops Rents, but yet there was never penny paid; all which things laid together rendred your suppliants condition most miserable and sad, and the rather because that which was pretended by the Parliament for his good, was apparently turned to his mischief and hurt, and not knowing how to help himself; his frequent and daily addresses to the Committee for prisoners, proving altogether fruitlesse, and a meer expence of time and money, at last he was necessitated to treat with the said M. Young for the buying his Patent, and all his interest and title in the said house, that he might no longer sit at so great a Rent as 52 l. *per annum* to doe the Parliament service, and no profit at all arising to himself: whercupon the said M. Young and your suppli-

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pliant did agree (the writings and conveyances being drawn up
 by your Sollicitor General M. John Cook, who then did affirm, and
 still doth declare, that your suppliants purchase of the premisses of
 the hands of the said M. Young, is as valid and good in law for his
 life to the whole house, as can be in law made unto a man)
 so that the entire interest right and title of Master Young
 to the said house, and all the benefits, and profits, and arrears of
 profits of the said patent being legally your suppliants, hee may
 well, and he hopes coniscionably reckon the 521. rent per annum,
 with the othr arrears of profits of the said patent at 100 pound
 per annum, which for six years amounts to 600 pound; of all which
 he your suppliant, never from you, or any for you received a pen-
 ny, and he is clear out of purse for relieving the poor souldiers, and
 repairing the house above 400 pound (besides his buying and le-
 gally purchasing the patent) which with the fore-mentioned 600
 pound, makes above 1000 l. and hath no rationall nor visible way
 in his apprehension left him to get his money, which is his due and
 right, but onely his legall and just interest hee hath in the said Bi-
 shops house by vertue of his patent. But now so it is at last, as if
 there were a determinate resolution utterly to undoe your suppliant,
 and all that belongs to him; for his faithfulness to you, it
 is strongly endeavoured by the Trustees of Bishops Lands violently
 to put him out of possession of his legall right of the same house,
 not making him any allowance in the world for the great summes
 of money due to him; nor shewing him any probable way how to
 obtain his just right and due, but have made complaint against
 him to the Committee of Parliament for removing of obstructions
 in the sale of Bishops Lands, who have sent for him severall times,
 and dealt worse with him, then wicked Abab was willing to have
 dealt with poor Naboth for his vineyard; who was willing to give
 him a better vineyard then it, for it, or as much money as it was
 worth, 1 King. 21. 2. but they command him to deliver up to the
 Trustees his legall possession and title, without the proffer of any
 valuable consideration at all, usmg him with much reproach, and
 scorn, and threatning language; and though the last week, as
 at other times he waited upon them, and could have no audience,
 there being not a Committee, and being but newly gone out of
 Town into Essex, the said Cominittee upon the 14. of March last
 sent the servants of the Serjant at Arms, attending your house
 thither to apprehend him, as a prisoner, and keep him in safe cu-

stdy, to his exceeding reproach, losse and charge, though at that time he was busily imployed in the Parliaments service, about Tilbury block-house by Collonel Temple, a Member of your House, for which service he receiveth no salary from you or other profit.

Now your suppliant humbly beseecheth you to judge impartially how sadly he is dealt withall, who hath faithfully adhered to you from the beginning and sent out his three sons in your service, one of which was slain therein, and a son in law of his lost his life in your service also, and left behinde him your suppliants poor daughter, a widdow with four small children without relief, pity, or help from you ; and now he himself, who hath laid out his all for you, must be thus therefore destroied in his helples old-age, as also the rest of his children by a forcible taking from him and them their just right, which should purchase them bread, to keep them alive in these starving times ; he not in the least desiring to keep and preserve his possession in his house for that single life he hath in it any longer, then till you will audite his Accompts, and pay him what you justly owe him, and give him a valuable consideration for his legally purchased interest in it, or else set him some reasonable price upon your future right in the premisses, that so he may endeavour to procure some friend of his to pay you ready moneyn for it, allowing him in the price thereof, what is justly his due and right. In the mean time he humbly beseecheth you, that he may have his liberty granted him, that thereby he may be the better enabled to do you further service.

Thomas Devenish.

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